



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA VETERANS CEMETERY VANDALIZED FOUR DAYS AFTER DEDICATION**

SACRAMENTO - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson today informs the community that the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Shasta County was vandalized last night. Law enforcement authorities have informed the California Department of Veterans Affairs that a stolen Ford Bronco may have been used in the attack on the cemetery. A license plate found at the site of damage led law enforcement officials to the stolen vehicle.

The damage to the cemetery includes 1,307 linear feet of sod, destruction of at least 34 trees, damage to some hydro-seeded lawn areas, and destruction of an entrance gate off of Small Farms Road.

"It is incomprehensible that someone would want to damage such a dignified and beautiful place as the Veterans Cemetery," said Johnson. "These vandals have demonstrated utter disrespect for the men and women who, by their service, have earned the right to be laid to rest in the cemetery."

"The community's solidarity with veterans was immediately made evident as soon as news of the damage was known," added Johnson. "Local business people, landscapers, and others have offered their services pro bono and expressed a desire to return the cemetery to its original state as soon as possible. We will keep in mind this outpouring of support from the community as we go about repairing this damage."

Cleanup and restoration will begin as soon as law enforcement officials permit this task to begin.

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*Note to editors: This News Release and previous CDVA news releases are available on our website at [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov) and via e-mail from [jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov)*